



## **Navajo Nation Program for Self Reliance**

P.O. Box 2279 • Window Rock, Arizona 86515

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### **News Release**

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#### **NNPSR Launches Second School-Supplies Campaign, Ensuring Children Have Tools to Succeed In School**

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Fort Defiance Agency of the Navajo Nation Program for Self Reliance (NNPSR) launched the program's second school-supplies campaign today with a back-to-school celebration for NNPSR customers and their dependents.

"It really helps me knowing someone out there is willing to help kids buy school supplies," said Emerita Yazzie of Jeddito, Ariz.

Watching her children sign out for boxes of school-supplies, Ms. Yazzie said, "Every year, it's a struggle to buy school supplies. This is a big help."

Ms. Yazzie said before the NNPSR provided school supplies or clothing for Customers' school-aged children, she had to separate purchases her kids between months. "The older ones would get their stuff and it was split, split and split here and there for the rest to get their school supplies."

For the last month, Ms. Yazzie's children studied the school-supply advertisements and showed her what they wished for. At that time, she was unsure when or how they would afford to get their school supplies.

Ms. Yazzie was only one of hundreds of NNPSR Customers, who brought their children to pick up one of the 1,139 school-supplies boxes distributed on a first-come, first-served basis by Fort Defiance Agency office.

Roxanne Gorman, Department Manager III, explained the NNPSR launched the school-supplies campaign for the program's Customers and their dependents to "give support to students so they are ready for school. Quality supplies were purchased to help the students begin their school year on a positive note."

"The NNPSR fulfills a part of its mission to empower Navajo families when students are provided the tools they need to start school with confidence," Ms. Gorman said.

This year, the NNPSR purchased a total of 7,557 school-supplies boxes for students entering Kindergarten to students in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Last year, the NNPSR ordered 3,000 school-supplies boxes and ran short at several locations.

Each school-supplies box contains a backpack and school supplies appropriate for their grades. For example, Kindergarten students received backpacks filled with items such as beginner pencils, crayons and boxes of tissue. High-school students received backpacks with highlighters, binders and ballpoint pens.

The Fort Defiance Agency celebration included a short orientation for parents on changes in the documents they will be required to submit for the next fiscal year and a cookout featuring hamburgers and hotdogs for NNPSR customers.

Vera Johnson, Ft. Defiance Agency Program Supervisor II, said many parents expressed thanks to her for the program's school supplies and \$150 school-clothing allowance.

This morning, I was told, "You guys don't know how much these cost – one backpack is \$29," Ms. Johnson said. "The parents also provided recommendations for our next school-supplies campaign and requested mesh-school bags."

Ms. Johnson said the program's support of school-aged students encourages students to take their academic responsibilities seriously. "This really helps them as they gain the skills to become self reliant."

Over the next few weeks, other NNPSR agency offices will distribute boxes of school supplies at locally organized events. A brief list follows:

Navajo Nation Program for Self Reliance  
Schedule of Back to School Celebrations

Date	NNPSR Office	Location
August 4, 5 & 6, 2009	Crownpoint	Crownpoint PSR Office
August 7, 2009	Monument Valley	Monument Valley High School
August 12, 2009	Aneth	Red Mesa Chapter
August 12, 2009	Chinle	Chinle PSR Office
August 12, 2009	Gallup	Gallup PSR Office
August 12, 2009	Shiprock	Shiprock PSR Office
August 20 & 21, 2009	Crownpoint	Near the hospital and past the Red Mesa Store in Torreon, NM
TBD	Tuba City	

For information customers may call their local NNPSR office or the Central Support Office at: (866) 347-2403.